



January 11, 2018

During the past several legislative sessions, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) was asked to submit a report of its outreach efforts to work with community rehabilitation program providers for job placement and retention services for individuals with significant and most significant disabilities.

HF 642 states: *For purposes of optimizing the job placement of individuals with disabilities, IVRS shall make its best efforts to work with community rehabilitation program providers for job placement and retention services for individuals with significant disabilities and most significant disabilities. By January 15, 2018, the division shall submit a written report to the general assembly on the division's outreach efforts with community rehabilitation program providers.*

IVRS has continued efforts to establish, create and maintain partnerships with Iowa community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) in 2017. IVRS continued efforts to promote and encourage collaboration by reaching out to CRPs, external vendors and other service providers. The result of this focus has contributed positively to enhancing partnerships, in addition to expanding competitive, community employment-related options for Iowans with disabilities. IVRS has a dedicated staff position performing the outreach activities in collaboration with our CRPs.

IVRS is the lead agency for the federal monies received from the Department of Labor's Office of Disability and Employment Policy. During the past five years, Iowa has received technical and financial assistance dollars that was directed to community provider transformation to help individuals with the most significant disabilities access community, competitive, integrated employment. We continue to be involved as the Employment First state lead for 2018.

IVRS Supported Employment				
ffy	# in Supported Employment	Amount Expended	Average Expended	# SES Closures
2014	425	\$ 971,295	\$ 2,259	252
2015	665	\$1,496,535	\$ 2,211	333
2016	937	\$1,519,050	\$ 1,738	382
2017	1,200	\$1,779,919	\$ 1,684	406



*Finding solutions. Generating success.*

The above table reflects:

- During 2017, IVRS expenditures paid to CRPs totaled \$1.79 million.
- The number of individuals served in supported employment increased each of the past four years.
- Employment outcomes for Supported Employment Services have increased.
- The average cost of purchased services have decreased reflecting positive trend data.

IVRS provided financial support to 33 different Occupational Skills training programs, which included eleven Project Search exploration and training programs. Our CRPs are integral to the success of these training efforts to meet the business skill gap.

IVRS implemented a variety of in-service, webinar, on-site and video conference training opportunities available to CRPs throughout the year, as well as performance data specific to each partner. Vendor data is shared annually by IVRS with providers to stimulate conversations with partners, ensure consistent business practices, promote transparency for purchased services, and provide a statewide basis for comparisons and quality assurance improvement.

IVRS will continue to collaborate and proactively respond to the demands of an ever-changing job market to fulfill our mission and effectively provide the necessary services to help individuals with disabilities achieve full integration into community employment. Towards this end, IVRS has put forth a dedicated effort to expand opportunities to collaborate, innovate and network with entities and align resources with community partners. With implementation of the federal legislation, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, it is vital to align service delivery efforts, avoid duplication, and leverage funding to maximize the capacity of all employment service providers to meet the needs of Iowans with disabilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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